**Report for the quarter March –May 2015 – Creating foot soldiers for Organ donation**

It was yet another hectic but exciting training quarter at the MOHAN Foundation. From December 2009 to May 2015, MOHAN Foundation has trained 837 transplant coordinators in different cities in India as well as Bangladesh. Their efforts have resulted in the retrieval of 3500 organs and tissues from across the country in the past five years. MOHAN Foundation’s transplant coordinators’ training programme is the only structured course that is being offered in South Asia.

The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has now approached the Foundation to seek support in developing a nationwide curriculum on training transplant coordinators in the country and to also develop a module for Training of Trainers across all states.

A **One-month training programme** was held in May 2015 at MOHAN Foundation, Chennai. It had both national and international representation. There were 26 participants from various parts of the country (Chennai, Kolkata, Mangalore, Nagpur), and one participant from Botswana. It was a mixed group of nurses, social workers and dialysis technologists. In addition, a heart transplant recipient also participated in the training so that she could ‘give back’ to the society. There was also a research fellow (Thomas J. Watson Fellowship) from USA who was there to observe and learn from the programme. Her project was about the donation of different parts of the human body and to look at the psychological and cultural factors that influence donation patterns in different countries. She spent six months in South Africa and shared some of her perspectives with the other participants.

At the valedictory function, the participants received their completion certificates from Dr. J. Radhakrishnan, IAS, Principal Secretary, Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of Tamil Nadu. Also present was, Dr. J. Amalorpavanathan, Convenor, Cadaver Transplant Programme, Govt. of Taml Nadu.

A **One week Transplant Coordinator's Training Programme** was held from April 7-11, 2015 in Gurgaon. The training was hosted by Fortis Memorial Research Institute – a leading private hospital and transplant centre. The training got an overwhelming response and close to 60 delegates of varied profiles - transplant coordinators, doctors, nurses, medical social workers, dialysis technicians, and senior managers from Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Assam, West Bengal, Haryana and Delhi-NCR attended the training.

Apart from health care professionals who attended the training, few NGOs that have undertaken to work with the cause of organ donation, also attended the training such as ORGAN India (Delhi-NCR), Shine India Foundation (Kota) and Jodhpur School of Public Health (Jodhpur).

Dr Neena Verma, who lost her young son Utkarsh last year and went on to donate his corneas, has set up a foundation in his name to promote organ and tissue donation. She also attended the training programme. In her words, *“This training program is very thoughtfully designed to give a comprehensive understanding of various aspects of Transplant Coordination and Organ Donation. Various sessions on medical (technical), social, psychological, legal aspects prepared the participants well to start conducting their donor counseling, awareness, and transact coordination work right after attending the course. A diverse group of medical and other experts shared highly sensitive information in a thoughtful and engaging way. Some technical snags hampered session on kidney transplant, which were handled by course directors with deep sensitivity and group intelligence.”*

More than 50 eminent speakers and experienced professionals from the medical/non-medical fraternity conducted and chaired sessions.

Besides the session on technical aspects of organ donation and transplantation, visits to the Intensive Care Unit were organized for the participants. Every day a batch of 10 delegates would visit the ICU for practical reinforcement of the teachings, especially donor identification and maintenance of a brain dead donor.

Dr. N.S. Dharamshaktu, Additional DG (Director general of Health Services, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare) gave away certificates to all the delegates who successfully completed the course.

*“The training has really helped me and my institution a lot. Although we have not yet started on deceased donor organ transplant, but the overall experience and learning has been great. All the confusions with legal documentation, confusions with flow and process of deceased organ donation have been cleared. It’s been a wonderful experience all together. Thank you all for making transplant coordinators of next level”* - Dr Anupam Sharma, Consultant Emergency, Alchemist Hospital, Gurgaon

0n 6th May 2015 MOHAN Foundation organized a one day **TOT (Training of Trainers) for the police personnel** on their role in Brain Death and Organ Donation. This was done in association with Police Training College, Chennai. The aim of the programme was to make them understand the role which they play in the concept of organ donation. 43 police personnel attended the training. The trainers demonstrated the protocols followed in Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital in a Medico Legal Case and highlighted the role of police during inquest, request for post-mortem and handing over of the donor body.

Similar efforts to sensitize the police personnel were made in other parts of the country as well. Awareness talks on organ donation and the role of the police were conducted at the Sadar Police Station (Sector 38, Gurgaon) and at the Police Head Quarter, Chandigarh on March 28 and May 7, 2015 respectively.

In a unique initiative, MFJCF (MOHAN Foundation Jaipur Citizen Forum) organized a special program **‘Navjeevan Ka Ankur’ to felicitate the state’s deceased organ donors’ and their families** at SMS Hospital auditorium on April 18, 2015. Mr. Rajendra Singh Rathore, Health Minister, Govt. of Rajasthan was the chief guest of the same. In this program, tributes were paid to organ donors. Addressing the occasion, Mr. Rajendra Singh Rathore, Health Minister (Rajasthan) expressed his gratitude towards the family members of deceased organ donors and appreciated various awareness programs in this regard.

The highlight of the quarter was “**Samarthan” - A musical Evening to create awareness on organ donation** at Zorba, New Delhi on May 2, 2015.

The evening was graced with many distinguished personalities and supporters of the cause and made memorable by the beautiful music played by the Zoya Band.

There was also a sign up session where people came forward and pledged their organs.

Close to 300 people attended the event to demonstrate their support and passion for the cause.

The Foundation would like to thank all its supporters on Global Giving for their support as we carry forward this much needed mandate of training. We will continue to look forward to your support as we move forward. Please let others know about our work.